

SIEGESBECKIA ORIENTALIS IN ILLINOIS.

EARL E. SHERFF.

PRIOR to his death in 1882, Elihu Hall had gradually built up a large private herbarium, consisting of specimens from many parts of the world. A good portion of these were collected by himself in the western United States and determined by Asa Gray.¹

It was Mr. Hall's custom to take seeds from various specimens collected by himself or obtained through exchange and to plant these upon his large estate near Athens, Illinois. This was done for several hundred species. After his death, no special effort was made to preserve any of these introduced species that might have been left, and what proportion of these have survived until the present day is a question naturally of interest.

In August, 1916, upon the recommendation of Dr. C. F. Millspaugh of the Field Museum, Mr. O. E. Lansing, Jr. and myself were commissioned by the Field Museum to visit Athens, Illinois, and make a thorough reconnaissance of the flora in the immediate vicinity of the Hall estate. Our instructions were, not only to obtain a representative collection of plants from that vicinity but to look with particular care for all exotic species that might have survived from the days of Elihu Hall's activities.

On reaching Athens, August 25th, we were entertained at the Hall estate by Mr. Julian Hall and family and were shown the utmost courtesy and kindness in the prosecution of our work. Immediately upon our arrival, we had our attention drawn to a large, coarse composite that was very common along the pathway from the dooryard to the barnyard and near certain fences. Aside from this species, which later was determined by Dr. B. L. Robinson as *Siegesbeckia orientalis* L., no trace could be found of the many introductions that had been made years before.² Reference to the collections in the Field Museum Herbarium showed a specimen of precisely the same species, from the Bebb Herbarium. This plant had been collected by Elihu Hall, August 24, 1867, from among his plants under cultivation, and

¹ Concerning Elihu Hall's life and travels, see Bot. Gaz. VII. 126 (1882), *ibid.* IX. 59 (1884). Concerning his herbarium, see Bot. Gaz. LXII. 239 (1916).

² Except certain trees and perennial herbs, such as violets, that had been set out about the yard and had received some degree of protection.

likewise had been determined as *Siegesbeckia orientalis* L. Here, then, was a foreign (Asiatic) species that had persisted for from thirty-five years (i. e., since Elihu Hall's death) to nearly fifty years. But what to us seems far more worthy of record is the fact that none of the other introduced species were found to have maintained independently a foothold.

While the manuals do not list *Siegesbeckia orientalis* for the United States, Dr. Robinson states, in a letter accompanying his determination, that it has been found a few times before in America; that a form of it even was found "some years ago in a hilly bit of dump land within a quarter of a mile of the Gray Herbarium" at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

THE STATUS OF GLYCERIA FERNALDII.

HAROLD ST. JOHN.

A DETAILED examination of a large amount of material has convinced the writer that *Glyceria pallida* (Torr.) Trin., var. *Fernaldii* Hitchc. has abundant and stable characters. It also departs from the species with which it has been associated in having a later flowering season and a different range. These matters are stated below in tabular form and should convince the reader, as they have the writer, that the plant should be considered as a species.

G. PALLIDA (Torr.) Trin.

Grain 1.5 mm. long
 Anther cylindrical, 1 mm. long.
 Spikelets usually 4-7-flowered, 6-7 mm. long.
 Branches of panicle flexuous, ascending or somewhat divergent.
 Leaves 5-20 cm. long, 2-8 mm. wide; lower sheaths usually divergent and free at summit.
 Culm 3-10 dm. high.
 Flowering in May and June.
 Range from So. Me. to Va., and west to So. Ont., Mich. and Miss.

G. FERNALDII (Hitchc.).

Grain 0.8 mm. long.
 Anther globose, 0.2-0.5 mm. long.
 Spikelets usually 3-5-flowered, 4-5 mm. long.
 Lower branches of panicle strongly divergent or reflexed at maturity.
 Leaves 4-10 cm. long, 2-3 mm. wide; sheaths and ligules tightly clasping the stem.
 Culm 2-4 dm. high.
 Flowering in July and August.
 Range from Nfd. to Conn., and west to Minn.